

Thursday, February 5, 2004

Soldiers, charity work to renovate Kalid Al-Walid school

Story and photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The more than 250 students and teachers welcomed soldiers at the grand opening of the Kalid Al-Walid elementary school in Al-Yarmuk district of Baghdad Jan 26.

The opening is the result of several months work by soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Abilene, Texas, also part of Task Force 1st Armored Division. Contract workers in the local community also worked on the project.

The children clapped and sang as Lt. Col. Richard Bowyer, 4-1 FA commander, and the school's headmaster cut the shiny, red ribbon to reopen the refurbished school building.

Surveying the structure's integrity months ago, Bowyer said he knew major repairs were going to be necessary to make the building ready for students.

"Before we started this project, the school's roof leaked, the classroom windows were shattered and the bathrooms were not functioning," said Bowyer. "In addition, there was poor lighting in the classrooms, all the doors were missing, there were no fans or cooling systems and parts of the structure had fallen in."

Bowyer met with Earl Rawlings, a representative from the Rawlings Foundation, a charitable organization in the U.S. Rawlings had been looking for a project to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Bowyer recommended the school.

"After coordinating with Rawlings and his organization in the states, they cut us a check for \$10,000 for the first round of restorations to Kalid Al-Walid elementary school," said Bowyer. "We used this money to make primary repairs; window glass, electrical systems, bathrooms and the roof."

The civil affairs team assigned to 4-1 FA assisted with the coordination and monitoring of the project, said Staff Sgt. Steven Ayers, team sergeant from the 490th CA.

"With as many schools as our teams have



Pfc. James Taylor, driver with 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, passes out candy to students at the grand opening of the Kalid Al-Walid elementary school in the Al-Yarmuk district of Baghdad Jan 26.

worked on, we were able to assist (4-1 FA) with project," Ayers said. "We monitored the contractor's work and made sure the sponsor got what they paid for. We are quality control."

"The Kalid Al-Walid elementary school is one of 55 schools located within the 4-1 FA area of operations. Nearly every school in the area has an ongoing project or is scheduled to be renovated by the artillerymen and civil affairs personnel in the near future."

"The people here have shown they realize the Americans are here to help and make things better for the Iraqi people, and especially for the children," Bowyer said.

Ayers said the task of rebuilding Iraq is going to be most effective by starting at the ground up with the children.

"Fixing these schools is a big part of our responsibility because these children will eventually become the future of Iraq," said Ayers. "In the past they were taught 'Saddam Hussein is victory,' but with the correct instruction, the right tools and good facilities, we can help these children grow and turn Iraq into a great country."

The Old Ironsides Report

February 5, 2004

News...

Rumsfeld: WMD May Still Be Found in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Wednesday he is not ready to conclude that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction before U.S. troops invaded to depose Saddam Hussein last year. Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee that U.S. weapons inspectors need more time to reach final conclusions about whether chemical and biological weapons existed in Iraq before the war, as the Bush administration had asserted before sending American troops into battle.

Ricin Probe Links White House, S.C. Mail

WASHINGTON (AP) - Investigators intensified efforts to identify the letter or parcel that brought ricin to a Senate mailroom and to determine whether the incident is linked to the deadly poison found last fall in letters at mail facilities serving the White House and a South Carolina airport. Hazardous materials teams from the FBI and U.S. Capitol Police were conducting a methodical search after a preliminary search Tuesday turned up no specific letter or parcel that could be connected to the ricin in Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's office.

Rivals Storm the South After Kerry's Wins

John Kerry's chief rivals campaigned on the strength of their Southern roots Wednesday, all but ceding Democratic presidential nomination contests in Michigan and Washington state. Kerry easily prevailed in five states among the seven that voted Tuesday in primaries and caucuses, piling delegates into his column at twice the rate of his nearest opponent.

Witness Says Stewart Sold Stock After Tip

NEW YORK (AP) - In the most damaging testimony yet, a former Merrill Lynch assistant said Wednesday that Martha Stewart told him to sell her ImClone Systems stock after he advised her that the company founder was trying to dump his own shares. Douglas Faneuil, under questioning from the prosecution, told the jury about a phone call he received from Stewart on Dec. 27, 2001. Faneuil said he told her that ImClone founder Sam Waksal was trying to sell all his shares of the stock - and she ordered him to do the same.

Safety Tip...

There are four methods to protect personnel and equipment from the threat posed by UXO:

- evacuate
- isolate
- barricade
- or any combination of the three

In other news...

Cubans Try to Reach Fla. in Floating Car

MIAMI (AP) -- Two Cubans who tried to sail to Florida in a truck converted to a pontoon boat last year are making another attempt, this time piloting a seagoing 1950s-era Buick with nine other people, including five children, relatives said.

Marciel Basanta Lopez and Luis Gras Rodriguez, who were sent back to Cuba in July after they failed to reach Florida in a converted 1951 Chevy pickup, were allegedly at the helm of the newest vehicle-boat conversion.

The Coast Guard refused on Wednesday to confirm the status of the tail-finned car or the origin of photos of it in the water that were broadcast on television Tuesday. U.S. policy prevents the disclosure of information on such cases until they are resolved, such as by sending the participants back to their home countries, Petty Officer Sandra Bartlett said.

Under U.S. immigration policy, Cubans who reach U.S. shores are allowed to stay while those caught at sea are usually returned.

The Miami Herald said the 1959 Buick was nearly halfway to Key West by Tuesday evening. Key West is 90 miles from Havana, but it was not immediately clear where on Cuba the group had set out to sea.

Relatives in Cuba told Basanta's cousin, Kiriati Lopez, who lives in Lake Worth, that they knew the men were planning a second escape attempt.

"My cousin isn't crazy. He wants to be free," Lopez told the newspaper. "That's how crazy he is."

He said the group left Cuba on Monday night.

"They've been waiting the past two weeks for good weather," he said.

In the Havana neighborhood of San Miguel de Padron, Gras' sister said she was awaiting news.

"They are very brave," Valentina Gras told the Herald. "When you are so sure of what you have to do you cannot be afraid."

Last summer, the two men were joined by seven other men, two women and one small child.

The Chevy pickup they used then was kept afloat by empty 55-gallon drums attached to the bottom as pontoons. A propeller attached to the drive shaft pushed it along at about 8 mph.

After the Coast Guard intercepted them about 40 miles off Key West, the pickup was sunk to keep it from becoming a hazard to other vessels.

Chaplain's thought for the day... **The Fruit of the Spirit**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

--Galatians 5:22-23

The Old Ironsides Report

February 5, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2004				As of: Wednesday, February 04, 2004 9:56:37 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	GILLETTE WORLD SPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	SUICIDE MISSIONS : - COMBAT MEDICS	TODAY		00:00
00:30	NBA INSIDE STUFF	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			AFNEWS ON ASSIGNMENT	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		CINEMA COMBAT: COMBAT: HOLLYWOOD GOES TO WAR		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NFL LIVE	NBA SHOOTAROUND	ROCKET POWER : - IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY DAY	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - GRANDPARENTS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG XII: COLORADO VS TEXAS	NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ CLEVELAND CAVALIERS	THE SIMPSONS : - MOANING LISA	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	CNBC: THE NEWS	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - THE YOUNGER WOMAN			04:30
05:00			DHARMA & GREG : - LOVE, HONOR AND OLE!	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS : - THE TRUTH HURTS			05:30
06:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: LOUISVILLE @ MEMPHIS		THE WEST WING : - THE TWO BARTLETS	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - GUMBO, BEGINNINGS TO 1917	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - THE GIFT, 1917-1924		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	4 LITTLE GIRLS	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS : - TWO FACES OF ANITA	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLD! : - HELGA BLABS IT ALL/ HAROLD THE BUTCHER		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - GRANDPARENTS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - A BETTER PILL TO SWALLOW	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE WARRIOR INCARNATE		10:30
11:00	NHL - ST. LOUIS BLUES @ EDMONTON OILERS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY DAY	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - MOANING LISA	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - THE YOUNGER WOMAN	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AMERICAN IDOL	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - FEAR AND LOATHING IN MIAMI	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:25				WILL & GRACE : - 24		13:25
13:30	SPORTSCENTER					13:30
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING : - THE TWO BARTLETS	THE BACHELORETTE II	60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00	NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ CLEVELAND CAVALIERS	TODAY	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - GUMBO, BEGINNINGS TO 1917		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30				C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - INSIDE THE BOX		15:30
16:00			KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - THE GIFT, 1917-1924			16:00
16:30				HEADLINE NEWS		16:30
16:52				PACIFIC REPORT		16:52
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS : - TWO FACES OF ANITA	4 LITTLE GIRLS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! : - HELGA BLABS IT ALL/ HAROLD THE BUTCHER			CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : - A BETTER PILL TO SWALLOW		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NFL LIVE	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - THE WARRIOR INCARNATE				18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY DAY	COURT-MARTIAL OF JACKIE ROBINSON		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			19:30
20:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - 2003 ROAD TO THE PRO BOWL	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - MOANING LISA		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - THE YOUNGER WOMAN			20:30
20:45				PATCH ADAMS		20:45
21:00	SPORTSCENTER	GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - FEAR AND LOATHING IN MIAMI	AMERICAN IDOL		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		WILL & GRACE : - 24				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00	BEYOND THE GLORY	THE BACHELORETTE II	THE WEST WING : - THE TWO BARTLETS		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	PGA TOUR - AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM: FIRST ROUND		KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - GUMBO, BEGINNINGS TO 1917	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30		C.S.I.: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION : - INSIDE THE BOX		HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

Today in history... Feb. 5

1960 South Vietnam requests more support

The South Vietnamese government requests that Washington double U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG-Vietnam) strength from 342 to 685. The advisory group was formed on November 1, 1955 to provide military assistance to South Vietnam. It had replaced U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group Indochina (MAAG-Indochina), which had been providing military assistance to "the forces of France and the Associated States in Indochina" (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) in accordance with President Harry S. Truman's order of June 27, 1950.

MAAG-Vietnam had U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps elements that provided advice and assistance to the South Vietnamese Ministry of Defense, Joint General Staff and corps and division commanders, as well as to training centers and province and district headquarters.

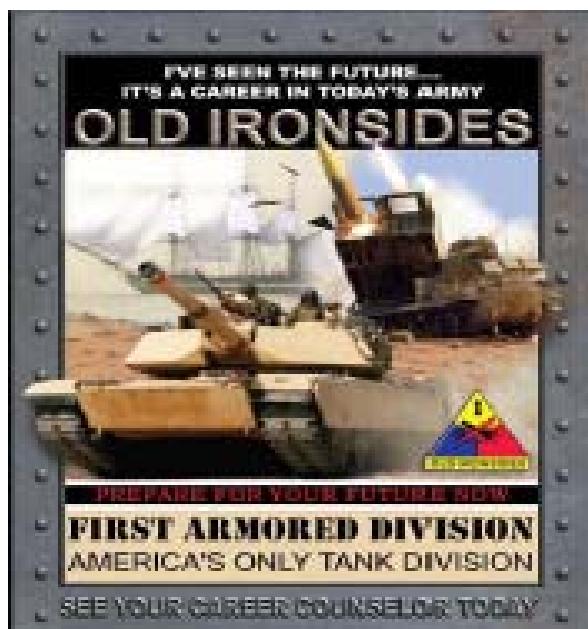
In May 1964, MAAG-Vietnam was disbanded and its personnel and responsibilities absorbed by the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), which had been established in Saigon two years earlier.

1975 North Vietnamese begin preparations for offensive

North Vietnamese Gen. Van Tien Dung departs for South Vietnam to take command of communist forces in preparation for a new offensive. In December 1974, the North Vietnamese 7th Division and the newly formed 3rd Division attacked Phuoc Long Province, north of Saigon. This attack represented an escalation in the "cease-fire war" that started shortly after the Paris Peace Accords were signed in 1973.

The North Vietnamese wanted to see how Saigon and Washington would react to a major attack so close to Saigon. President Richard Nixon and his successor, Gerald Ford, had promised to come to the aid of South Vietnam if the North Vietnamese launched a major new offensive. With Nixon's Watergate resignation and Ford facing an increasingly hostile Congress, Hanoi was essentially conducting a "test" attack to see if the United States would honor its commitment to Saigon. The attack was much more successful than the North Vietnamese anticipated: the South Vietnamese soldiers fought poorly and the United States did nothing.

Emboldened by their success, the North Vietnamese decided to launch a major offensive against the South Vietnamese. "Campaign 275" began on March 1, 1975. The North Vietnamese forces quickly overran the South Vietnamese and the United States failed to provide the promised support. Saigon fell on April 30 and the South Vietnamese government officially surrendered.



Reenlistment Bonus Still Available

The Army keeps rewarding soldiers with cash for reenlisting while deployed. Task Force 1st Armored Division soldiers with less than 10 years of service can earn from \$5,000 to \$10,000 when they reenlist.

Soldiers must reenlist for 36 months. Other factors that will determine the bonus amount include years of service and current pay grade.

For more information contact your career counselor:

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, 551-9405
- Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield, 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Presidential Palace, 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, 551-6620
- DIVARTY: SFC Hilton, 551-7030
- DIVENG: MSG Collier, 551-6131
- DISCOM SFC Casnave, 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, 551-9405